Mr. President,

The international community has a tremendous debt with Haiti where, after three centuries of colonialism, the first social revolution in the Western Hemisphere was to be declared. Haitian power, which the former colonial powers had to recognize with 200 years of military dictatorships and plunder. Its noble and hardworking people are now the poorest in the Western hemisphere. We all have the moral obligation to contribute to additional financial resources and greater cooperation with Haiti, not only for its reconstruction but, in particular, for its development.

In order to have an idea of the magnitude of the human tragedy in Haiti, suffice it to note the death of more than 30 million people in a country such as China, whose population reaches a total of 1.3 billion inhabitants; an unimaginable tragedy.

In the wake of this devastating earthquake that shocked the conscience of humanity, we trust that the numerous promises heard will be converted into action, that Haiti’s independence and sovereignty will be respected and ennobled, that the government of President René Préval and Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive will be facilitated to exercise its power, and that it will be able to work on this program.

A total of 783 professionals, plus 278 professors, have already come from Cuba – are graduated in Cuba – and a total of 2.4 million therapeutic treatments will also be three electromedicine centers, a prosthesis laboratory and an integral hygiene and epidemiology program. The program for the reconstruction and shortening of the Haitian national health system, drawn up by the Haitian government and a significant contribution from President Lula and Brazil, which will be converted into action, that Haiti’s independence and sovereignty will be respected and ennobled, that the government of President René Préval and Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive will be facilitated to exercise its power, and that it will be able to work on this program.

We send doctors, not soldiers

Nothing Has Changed

OCCUPATION IS THE CAUSE OF CRISIS IN IRAQ

The change in focus is international. By shifting from Iraq to Afghanistan, major media outlets like CNN, BBC and Al Jazeera are now focused on the war at least over? Can Iraqis now be considered free? Both the statistics and the bombing of buildings show a resounding “no”.

More than 50,000 patients have undergone rehabilitation therapy and more than 50,000 patients have undergone therapy. The heavy price of “freedom” in Iraq. But now that all these dollars and lives have been spent, is the war at last over? Can Iraqis now be considered free? Both the statistics and the bombing of buildings show a resounding “no”.

Generosity and political will is needed. Also needed is the unity of that country instead of its division into market plots and dubious charitable projects.

The program for the reconstruction and strengthening of the Haitian national healthcare system, drawn up by the Haitian government and the Cuban government, with the cooperation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and other countries and humanitarian organizations, will guarantee wide health coverage for the population, in particular the lowest-income sector.

A total of 783 Cuban and Cuban-trained doctors, all of them graduated in Cuba and working on this program. Last Saturday [March 27], as part of the program outlined, a memorandum of understanding for the strengthening of the healthcare and public services system and epidemiological prevention was signed in Port-au-Prince, thanks to the will of the Haitian government and a significant contribution from President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Brazil, which will be decisive for the planned healthcare program.

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However, the contamination is expected to spread through Iraq’s soil and waterways, affecting the entire population. But these diseases are not a mere side effect of the war – they are a lasting legacy. Depleted uranium remains radioactive and, therefore, a threat to human life, for 4.5 billion years. The rich, fertile land of Iraq which was once known as ‘the cradle of humanity’ is now a death sentence for humanity.

In September 2009, Fallujah General Hospital had 710 new-born babies, 24% of whom were dead within the first seven days, a staggering 75% of the dead babies were classified as deformed. On February 1st, 2010, the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights announced that it will file a law-suit against Britain and the US over the use of depleted uranium. Whatev-er the outcome of the case is, one thing is sure: it cannot even begin to make up for the crimes against humanity that have been committed, and continue to be commit-ted, in Iraq.

The New Era of War and continued on the back page...


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and occupation of Afghanistan. One of these demonstrations was on December 5, in Seat- tle, WA, organized by ANSWER Seattle (Act Now to Stop War & End Racism); activists from Vancouver based antiwar coalition Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO) travelled across the border to participate. In Canada, we are prime targets for recruitment to oppose the war which is the focus of the government of Canada’s imperialist ambitions - Afghanistan. With the US government’s reinforced focus on Afghanistan, the US and Canada antiwar movements now have even more of a common goal. At this new era of war and occupation deepens, so must the cooperation and unity of antwar activity on both the US and Canada sides of the border.

With just a few days notice, over 150 peace loving people marched together through Seattle, raising slogans and chants for US out of Afghanistan. The march concluded with a rally near Pike Place Market, where Jane Custer, coordinator of ANSWER Seattle, invited up representatives of the many an- twar and social justice groups to voice their opposition to war. Members of Veterans for Peace and Iraq Vets Against The War spoke out from the critical perspective of an- tiswar soldiers who have seen the brutality of this war machine first hand. Other speakers included members of CodePink Women for Peace and the World Can’t Wait, as well as M AWO co-chair Janine Solanki who gave messag- es of cross-border solidarity and uni- on against war. The next day, fol- lowing the De- cember 5, Seattle rally, there was another impor- tant action that Vancouver activ- ists joined. GI Voice and Veter- ans for Peace or- ganized a protest outside of the Fort Lewis Military Base, the largest military base on the West Coast, against the war in Iraq and Afghanistan and in support of GI War resist- ers. Two war resisters were being held in the Fort Lewis prison, Travis Bishop who refused to deploy to Afghanistan and Iraq and - Church who went away without leave (AWOL) because the army refused to let him leave to take care of his homeless wife and children. Protesters stood on a bridge over looking the busy 1-5 highway, getting honks and waves of support from travellers.

During this important weekend of protest, antiwar activists joined together not only to protest the US/Canada/NATO occupation of Afghanistan, but also in the effort to end this new era of war and occupation.

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**Occupation is the cause of crisis in Iraq**

Continued from front

During the 11 years of work prior to the earthquake, the Cuban medical brigade, which has a presence in 127 of the 137 Haitian communities, saved 233,442 lives, treated 14 million people, provided aid to 225,000 operations and delivered 81,000 neonates. Via the Operation Mi- scelle program, 46,000 Haitians have had their sight restored or improved. During the same period, 166,000 Haitians have become literate in Creole.

If we evaluate the medical services pro- vided in these 11 years and the training of medical personnel in Cuba, it would represent $400 million throughout the country.

The medical program that we are pro- posing, in its entirety, will benefit 75% of the poorest population of the country at a minimum expenditure.

We invite all governments, without ex- ception, to contribute to this noble ef- fort. For that reason, we attribute partic- ular importance to this fundamental issue, and aspire to its success.

Thank you very much.

New York, 31 March, 2010

*Translated by Granma International*